

14 SEPT 64 - DCI/SECTY ZUCKERT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - 2:20 p.m.

(b)(5)

DCI Did Houston talk to you about the talk I had with McClelland?

Z No

DCI He called me up last week and recalled the discussion he and I had had on the A 11 and the question of titanium and I asked him not to ask any questions and on the day of your testimony he then went on to say (Edwards) looked at the A 11 and therefore asked a lot of questions as to your testimony. He did not seem to have any fixed idea about why he had even so much as called me over to talk to him but I think he is trying to hand hit hat on something and seized on the fact you had made statements on titanium. I told Houston to talk to you about it and thought he had talked to you about it and told you of this discussion.

Z I appreciate it. Nothing I said (wasn't) cleared with Jack and Kelly.

DCI Talked to McNamara about it and he thought what you said had been cleared with Kelly.

Z Kelly's position is you could do it but it's a very poor way of doing it. In a Mach 2.4 airplane you don't do it this way.

DCI That's a question of engineering judgment whether titanium should be used or not - whether it's suitable or not. Did Kelly take the position it's a poor way or that it's unsuitable--

Z That he wouldn't do it that way.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DCI AND SECY ZUCKERT

14 Sept 64 - 2:30 p. m.

TAPED PORTION

- DCI: That was sort of a different kind of question. My impression from McNamara was, in the particular cross-section and size of beam, etc., we proposed, that it was an untested material for that purpose, and that had been what Kelly had indicated.
- Z: Kelly also said when I testified, which was shat, a year after we had looked at it? - that they had had less than 40 hours on the airplane, and Kelly was the only person who had experience with it and Boeing had demonstrated, almost amusingly, their unfamiliarity with the material. I am tremendously appreciative of your bringing it to our attention, because if he says anything, I can't do anything except reply to it.
- DCI: Yes, sure. I wanted to tell him why are you worrying about this thing, you have finished with it, why don't you put it to bed, but you know how the Senator is on this thing.
- Z: (He seemed to have this notion when it first came up), if you could use it one place, you could use it another.
- DCI: Well, I think it is better to deal with the unproven characteristics of the metal as an important structural member and it is probably true that that particular shape of beam or strut was not duplicated in the A-11, because of the configuration of the plane and all the rest, than to approach it on the basis that if we just don't need that kind of material, why go to all that trouble. The first is a valid position from a scientific point of view to question whether material has been tested sufficiently to be considered dependable. The other is an engineering judgment and differences in judgment in that kind is reason they build race tracks, you know.
- Z: John, did you get the impression he was going to do something with this right away?
- DCI: No, he didn't tell me that. He didn't tell me he was going to do anything with it nor did he say he wasn't going to do anything with it.
- Z: He is wonderfully predictable though, you can't predict how long it will take him, but you know it will happen.
- DCI: I am sure you are going to hear from it, you see, and therefore I would just look the thing over and that is all you can do about it.

put he had gone out to Edwards and seen that plane without anybody knowing about it.

Z: I didn't know he had gone out there. I knew he had talked to Kelly, but I didn't know he had been to Edwards.

DCI: He said he was and I said, well, I am surprised that some of the members of your committee haven't brought up this question. I said in view of Jackson's strong views about this, I wonder why he didn't bring it up particularly after one or two senior people at Boeing were exposed to the A-11. Well, he said, Jackson didn't know I was at Edwards. No member of my committee knew it and don't you tell them.

Z: Well, John, I appreciate your calling.

DCI: If Larry calls you, it will just be on this subject. Fine. Your Air Force is all right, is it?

Z: We are all right today. We haven't had any trouble with the CIA for some time.

DCI: You never have any trouble with us.

Z: No, no.

DCI: All we do is help you out.

Z: That's right. Thanks a million.



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